MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 21, 2003
VECC Training Room
1:00 pm

Attendance:

Tom Gray (RCC Consultants)	Erik Varney (Verizon)
Jeff Dial (St. George PD)	Dean Livingston (Clinton PD)
Layne Pace (Orem DPS)	Shawn Valder (Sunset PD)
Dennis Busby (M/A-Comm)	Merv Gustin (Duchesne SO)
David Bremson (M/A-Comm)	Dave Nance (Layton PD)
Jon Tait (Motorola)	Brent Ball (Summit County SO)
Terry Shaw (Weber County SO)	Jim Masner (Millard County SO)
Jeff Nielson (Sevier County SO)	Tim Cornia (State DPS)
Byra Sackett (UTARNG)	Jim Stewart (Utah Ed. Net)
Tim Slocum (State Corrections)	Jim Woolley (Extreme Networks)
Chris Dunn (Salt Lake City PD)	Boyd Webb (State ITS)
Steve Whittaker (Salt Lake City PD)	Richard Brookins (Ogden City)
Randy Fisher (Dept. of Health)	Nancy McConnell (State ITS)
Ken Ainge (Dept of Human Services)	Floyd Ritter (State ITS)
Bryan Low (Logan City PD)	Jake Hunt (UCAN)
Chad Esplin (Logan City PD)	Doug Chandler (State ITS)
Randy Auman (Logan City PD)	

I. **Spectrum Training**

As requested in the previous meeting, spectrum training was given. Joe Balashka with Adcomm Engineering gave a Power Point presentation, focusing primarily on what's going on with frequency issues below 512 MHz. The presentation is posted on the UWIN website.

II. **Petition for Reconsideration**

Steve Proctor introduced Robert Gurss, a legal council representative of APCO, who addressed the committee via speakerphone. APCO and other national organizations objected to the Jan 2004 narrowband deadline which would prevent expansion of an agency's footprint to be expanded to get better signal strength, fill in holes, deal with jurisdictional changes etc. Also objected to the requirement on manufacturers, which will require them to cease importation of radios capable of 25K operation in 2008. Interoperability needs to be an exception to the general narrowband rule. Spectrum efficiency standards may have been eliminated unintentionally. APCO recommended that the FCC choose Jan 1, 2013 as the date where all agencies would be required to be on narrowband. The FCC is currently reviewing these petitions, and it is expected that a ruling will be coming very soon.

III. **Consensus Plan**

The APCO legal council also addressed the Consensus Plan, which is the plan submitted by Nextel to address interference issues with public safety 800 MHz spectrum. It looks like the FCC will adopt something that is similar to the proposed Consensus Plan. The time frame looks like early next year. Nextel industry opponents have staged vigorous opposition efforts to the plan. Nextel provided a letter outlining how they would cover their financial obligations. It would be $850,000,000 covered by escrow and a letter of credit from a financial institute.

IV. Mobile Data

Tim Cornia gave a Power-Point presentation on mobile data issues. The 700 MHz Mobile Data RFP will be due December 16. Tim asked anyone interested in evaluating the proposals to get with him. UHF IPMobileNet is being used in Logan, Toole, and Park City. IPMobileNet is a private wireless data solution, with a speed of 19.2K. IPMobileNet was going to go to 33K, but that has been put on hold until the outcome of the 700MHz RFP. It is a vendor-specific solution.

Many agencies are installing their own 802.11 solutions. These solutions are unlicensed and frequently unsecure. DPS has been working with ITS on an authentication mechanism. The Utah Master Directory (UMD) is being proposed by ITS for single-point authentication. DPS is leaning toward USIGS.

There are basically three types of solutions for mobile data:
1. Private Wireless (i.e.: IPMobileNet)
2. Commercial Networks (i.e.: Verizon, Sprint, AT&T)
3. 802.11

DPS and ITS are envisioning a statewide solution. We need input from the members of the Technology Steering Committee in evaluating the 700 MHz proposals. The potential monthly user rate for a private mobile data solution could be very low if we get enough participating (paying agencies).

Current solutions are in 25KHz or less, but vendors are being asked to provide a migration path to the 50 KHz channels. As a cost recovery agency, the bandwidth does not necessarily impact rates associated with the services ITS delivers –unless those bandwidths cause an increase in the costs to deliver the connectivity. Agencies could put in their own systems, not being mandated to use ITS, DPS, or any other agency. The goal is to come to a single standard that would allow as many agencies as possible to be interoperable –regardless of who owns the radios. Partnerships will be a key aspect to a statewide deployment.

Commercial solutions may be an acceptable alternative to agencies that operate within the coverage areas of those technologies. Monthly costs have come down from as much as $120 to about $50. These solutions are frequently shared with public cellular telephone systems, which means in an emergency, these systems will probably be overloaded.

802.11 is an inexpensive solution to deploy (approximately $200 per site, $60 per laptop card). If we can all agree on a configuration and authentication standard, then an agency could travel between geographic areas and jurisdictions and be able to communicate continually.

Terry Shaw with Weber County has been deploying 802.11 and Terry noted that data encryption is something that must be addressed. Tim said DPS has been working with VLAN's as a possible solution to that situation.

With VLAN and USYGIS, we can be sure of the level of authentication that is being used. With the Utah Master Directory (UMD) we just aren't sure yet of the level of authentication that will be used.

Interference is a real issue with 802.11. 802.11 sites should not be deployed so a user can drive down the road and maintain continuous connectivity, but rather in a 'hot-spot' configuration so a user can pull into a parking area and upload/download data.

'Buy-in' is the key to make a mobile data solution work for the participating agencies of the UWIN Technology Steering Committee. We are not building mandates, but rather standards that will allow us all to work together.

The state is waiting for the 700 MHz RFP before it makes any recommendations for the replacement of CDPD. Tim Cornia has asked that anyone interested in working on the evaluation team to contact him by Email: tcornia@utah.gov .
Phil Bates felt that a realistic time frame for the deployment of a new 700 MHz solution would depend on whether the solution will be using the existing infrastructure, or will require an entirely new solution.

The Power Point presentation is available on the UWIN, Technology Steering Committee Web site.

V.   Voice Interoperability

Phil Bates told the group about the components and timetable of the new voice interoperability project. The Wasatch Front is basically an 800 MHz use area, with the rest of the state operating in VHF (150MHz). A Department of Health grant is upgrading the regional state dispatch centers, so they will be able to connect to the UCAN controller. The UCAN system needs more resources to be able to handle these new dispatch center connections. Omni-Link is a solution that will expand the UCAN controller capabilities. The new centers will be outfitted with Omni-Link compliant equipment and operating systems. All consoles have to be upgraded regardless of Omni-Link. The console upgrades are taking place because the currently used Windows operating system is no longer being supported.

Phil wanted to address the rumors that these upgrades will affect the costs to the current UCAN users. Federal grants are being used for this project and no costs should be passed to user agencies.

This new solution will allow VHF and 800 MHz users the ability to communicate to each other. The National Guard resources will also be attached as part of this interoperability solution. 800 MHz stations will be deployed throughout the state so 800 MHz users traveling in rural areas of the state can communicate with dispatch centers.

Agencies will not be mandated to move to 800MHz or stay on VHF. Choice will be the operable word.

Ongoing costs for connections between resources, dispatch centers, and the UCAN controller, will have to be addressed as we move forward.

The state radio technicians are getting training back at Motorola on the new consoles the first week of December. Installation of the new dispatch center equipment will begin at the first of the year.

VI.   Action Items for the Next Meeting

Report on the 700 MHz RFP
Send invitation for the RFP evaluation via the new list server
Please Email Doug Chandler or Jake Hunt if anyone has ideas for agenda items
dchandler@utah.gov   jake@ucan800.org

VII.   Other Concerns

Jake noted that agencies are concerned or upset over a couple of different issues, and hew wanted to address them before we adjourned.

A. **700 MHz** -Please help us stop the rumors that the new 700 MHz process will require agencies to drop their 800 MHz or VHF solutions. That is simply not true.

B. **Voting** – Some agencies have voiced concern that the Technology Steering Committee opted to allow Homeland Defense Regions to appoint individuals to the Advisory Committee, rather than have election processes within the TSC. We apologize for any hut feelings, but we felt that the Technology Steering Committee (TSC) did not need to have the added burden of election processes, when these could more efficiently be handled within the Homeland Defense Regions.

VIII.   Next Meeting

Friday January 16, 2004
1:00 pm
This will be after the 700 MHz RPC at 10:00am that morning.

http://uwin.utah.gov